REMARKS

As of this amendment, claims 4, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 14 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Claim 14 was objected to as being dependent on rejected claim 13. Claim 14 has been amended as an independent claim as requested by the Examiner on page 7, paragraph 7. Claim 13 has been amended as an independent claim incorporating the language in claim 1 wherein the monoclonal antibody is capable of inducing apoptosis. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to depend on independent claims 13 and 14 pending in this application. No new matter was added by the aforementioned amendments to the pending claims.

The current Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Examiner states that "while claims are directed to any region of 1-144 of SEQ ID NO:144 and specifically 22-55 or 1-72, the specification only teaches that antibodies directed to residues 22-34 of SEQ ID NO:1 induce apoptosis. Claim 1 is directed to any region in 1-144 of SEQ ID NO:1 and claim 3 to any in 1-72 and claim 13, residues 22-55, thus, there are regions that have not been shown to induce apoptosis, specifically only region 22-34 has been shown. .....Even though the response states that one can expect a reasonable degree of success, one skill in the art would not know which regions to select or which amino acid to use to produce antibodies against in order to produce apoptosis antibodies except amino acids 22-34 of SEQ ID NO:1."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 3 directed to antibodies recognizing an epitope between residues 1-144 and epitope between residues 1-72 of SEQ ID NO:1, respectively, and argue support for claim 13 directed to antibodies recognizing an epitope between residues 22-55 of SEQ ID NO:1 *infra*.

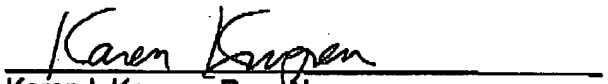
Example 7 (ii) of the above referenced specification describes the ability of 6 peptides of the G3BP protein to inhibit recognition of G3BP using antibody MabF1. In particular, beginning on page 33, line 24 bridging page 34, line 4, the specification indicates that peptide A (amino acids 22-34) and peptide C (amino acids 42-55) were capable of displacing the interaction between G3BP and MabF1. The specification clearly describes at least two

regions on G3BP that react with MabF1, specifically, regions 22-34 and 42-55, encompassed in one peptide 22-55 in length.

It is Applicants' position that one skilled in the art armed with Applicants' invention would be able to prepare a monoclonal antibody that binds to a G3BP epitope in the region spanning amino acids 22-55 and induces apoptosis in various tumors without any undue experimentation. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this rejection has been overcome and respectfully request the rejection to be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as now amended are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a favorable action in this matter. Should the Examiner believe that an interview would advance prosecution of this application, please contact the undersigned at (908) 231-4658.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No. ST98017 US PCT